Afraid of Imaginary Creatures Called "Night Doctors."

Thousands of Washington's Colored Peo ple Firmly Believe That White Phy-sicians Kill Negroes for Purposes of Dissection.

Special Washington Letter.

Our colored children are very much afraid of imaginary creatures called "night doctors." The words carry ter-ror to the hearts of the children; and some of the men and women of the recently enslaved race are equally fearful of the bug-a-boo and hoo-doo.

This afternoon there was a precocious black boy in South Washington who heard the words accompanied with a threat. He had no shoes, no stockings and no hat. His little breeches came



A PRECOCIOUS BLACK BOY.

only to the knees of his very black legs which were bowed like animated parentheses. He wore a thin cotton waist to which his breeches were buttoned. One sleeve was gone entirely, and the other was fringed off at the elbow. His hair was kinked close to his skull, and his little black eyes shone with a scrpentine glitter. His teeth were pure ivory, and his toes were like the flippers of a Mississippi river mud tur-tle. He stood on the curbstone hurling contemptuous remarks and insults at the driver of the ice wagon. The driver endured it to the point beyond which patience ceases to be a virtue. Then he turned in his seat and said:

"Oh, it's you, is it? You're a finelooking little boy, and I guess I'll just take you along. The night doctor told

Nobody knows what the night doctor told him, for at the mention of that dreaded personage the small boy of African descent turned with a wild shrick and scurried off as fast as his bowed legs would let him.

"Night doctor" is a term to conjure with. As a threat it is far more efficacions than the "gobbleens" or the "bogie man," or any other of the terrible creatures called up to frighten naughty boys and girls. And it isn't the children only who fear him. There's scarcely a negro in Washington who, deep in his heart, isn't afraid of the "night doctor." And a night doctor is something that people in many parts of our country never heard of nor

imagined. Somehow and at some time the impression was made upon the minds of the negroes of this city that every physician takes especial delight in cutting people up. He performs operations just for the pint. It sounds as if it ought to cure fun of carving his helpless victims, and spends all his leisure time in dissecting dead bodies. How does he get them? Why, after dark he drives about the town, and when he meets an unprotected negro he snatches him up and carries him off. That is the dreaded "night doctor," and that is what becomes of all the colored people who mysteriously disappear. That is the

negro theory. Very many of our colored folks know no law. They suffer the inconvenience of ignorance entailed by an unfortunate ancestry. The ties of marriage and of consanguinity are very often carelessly severed. Negro husbands or fathers may hear that work can be had for the asking in Pittsburgh, New York or some other city, and they start on foot or on freight cars, without going to their homes, or sending word that they are going away from the city. They cannot write letters, and their families and friends only know that they were in good health, but have disappeared. The only conclusion left to their friends is that some "night doctor"has taken them unawares, carried

them off and dissected them.
"Law, honey," said an old mammy, one of the genuine, rare, ante-bellum mammies, a few of whom are still to be found, "doctors don't keer for us poor black folks. Thry wants us to cut up, but they don't keer for us-and the night doctors! It's awful the things they do to folks. I do'n' want nothin' to do with these yere doctors, I tell dany Years of It Have Been Devoted to you. I kin cure whatever gits the matter with my fam'ly, and I've taken a load of sickness off many a quality cuttin' me up, an' unless the night doctors gits me I ain't goin'to have nothin'

to do with no doctors neither." hasn't a remedy for? And doubtless Directory, the senator was born in now and then she is quite as likely to Denmark, O., September 17, 1845; enhat upon the right remedy as any tered Miami university, at Oxford, O., man with M. D. after his name and a September, 1858; enlisted in Capt framed certificate of graduation hang. Dodd's university company April, 1861, ing on his office wall. She knows all and served at Camp Jackson, Columbus, there is to be known about those mysterious things-babies; and of all the bables she has welcomed on their first appearance in this world of wee not one but has been put through the course she firmly believes in. Every one of them was held towards the celling before it was laid down, and every one had its clothes put on every morn ing over its feet, and not over its head, in order that it might go up and not down in the world.

When the luckless infant is a fortnight or perhaps a month old, mammy says, steps must be taken to secure for it pure blood and a good complexion. To this end, a small fly blister must be applied back of each car and a sore formed. This must not be allowed to heal, but must be made to "run" till, in the judgment of the nurse, all the impurity in the little victim's blood has passed out, when a little vaseline or cold cream must be used to heal the blister. This, mammy declares, was Thus, it will appear, the colored infant | after teaching three mouths in

roses; but usually in a bed made of old clothes, rags and straw. They have little incentive, and less opportunity, to rise in the world. Surrounded as they are with superstition, it is not to be wondered at that they are unable to lift themselves into an atmosphere of Intelligence and thrift. It is not strange that "night doctors" are realities to them.

"Died of neglect" is the verdict of many a coroner's jury in this city. The colored people will not call a physician if they can help it; not even a physician of their own ruce. The old mammies do all the doctoring, and when a colored person dies it is very often the case that "neglect" is the conclusion reached at the inquest. A competent physician called in time might have administered some simple remedy, and

restored the patient to health and life. The little black babies are the greatest sufferers. For their simple ailments an old mainty is called into the family council. She lives in the alley, is very black, very round and fat, wears a handkerchief for a turban, smokes a pipe and drinks gin. For that dreaded infantile disorder, convulsions, mammy has a sovereign remedy. When you see a child so afflicted, you must find at once a piece of black silk; no other fabric or color will answer. This you must put over the sufferer's face, holding it tightly gathered under the chin. Keep it in this position while the child has a convulsion. Then take it off and throw it into the fire. A cure is effected by one application, for the convulsions are all burned with the silk.

The old "mammy" has a reputation to maintain in the little circle of humanity in which she lives and moves, and she never hesitates in the diagnosis of a case. She can cure dropsy by greasing a black body with lard and covering it with a thick flour dough. a cold. Paralysis must yield to rubbing with cayenne pepper and mustard. Tea made of a hornet's nest will



OLD MAMMY.

knock any whooping cough; and prickly heat disappears if a fresh watermelon rind is applied. For consumption you must drink liverwort tea, or take three times a day a tablespoonful of a medicine made after the following receipt: Steep wild cherry bark in a quart of water and boil until there is only a pint of it. Strain it, and add a mixture simmer until it is reduced to a something, and mammy declares that no cough of any kind whatsoever can stand out against it.

But under no circumstances will mammy allow a doctor to be called in. If he should come and cure the patient, he will just wait until the sick person is well and then carry him off at night for dissection. The patient might better die than live for the "night doctor"

to catch and carry away. Men and brethren, these people live here within the shadow of the Capitol dome. There are twenty thousand of them within two miles of the white house. They are under the aegis of the law; but they know no law. What shall we do with them? What shall we do for them? Shall we send missionaries to the heathen, when we have heathen nearer home? Are the souls in the darkest Africa more precious than the souls in the national capital? There is food for reflection here. There is a text and a sermon for your ablest pulpit orator.

"The poor we have with us always," is a paraphrased text. We need not go to Greenland's ley mountains, to India's coral strand; where Afric's sunny fountains roll down their golden sand. They are here. They are before my eyes every day. Let them be before your minds and hearts, when you go to church next Sunday and pray for the

SENATOR BRICE'S LIFE. Public Service.

The most talked-of man in the United States just now is Senator Calvin Stewfam'ly, too. Yes, indeed, chile. I art Brice, of Ohio. Some of his oppodo'n' want none of these yere doctors nents say that he is really a resident of New York; but the senator, who ought to know, claims citizenship in the pretty town of Limn, O. According to his She can cure; what is there she autobiography in the Congressional



SENATOR CALVIN S. BRICE, OHIO.

O.; in April, 1832, enlisted in Capt. Me-Farland's university company A. Eighty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, done to all the "quality" children in those strange days before the war.

Thus, it will appear, the colored infant after treather the summer of that year in West Virginia; graduated at Miami university June, 1862;

ATTORNEYS AT and served the summer of that

WHAT SAMBO FEARS not commence life in a bed of public schools at Lima recruited a com pany, reentered the service as captain of company E. One II. of company E. One Hundred and Eightieth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served in the first division of the Twenty-third corps in Tennessee, Georgia and Carolina until July, 1865.; he studied law in the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and was admitted to the practice by the state and United States district and circuit courts at Cincinnati in the spring of 1836; was on the Tilden electoral ticket in 1876 and Cleveland electoral ticket in 1884; delegate at large from Ohio to the St. Louis democratic national convention in 1888; was selected to represent Ohio on the national democratic committee, and was made chairman of the campaign committee for the ensuing national campaign; on the death of William II. Barnum he was unanimously elected chairman of the national committee, in 1889; and in January, 1890, was elected United States senator, to succeed Hon. Henry B. Payne, for the term com-

REAL ESTATE.

service will expire March 4, 1897.

mencing March 4, 1891. His term of

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